

## Scrubbing the Elephants



King George's visit to India was the occasion of many pageants in which elephants played an important part. The huge beasts were always magnificently appareled, but first were carefully scrubbed. Their tolls were an unfailing source of interest to the Americans and Europeans there.

### THIS RACE DYING.

In a consular report for 1910 dealing with Spanish possessions in the Gulf of Guinea, Consul Dedwell mentions the island of Fernando Po the aborigines of which are called "Bubi." He states: With few exceptions, the Bubi are uncivilized. Their general attitude is friendly. These people are most independent and will do no outside work of any kind. They live up the mountains about six to ten miles from the sea in small huts built of thick pillars of wood and thatched roofs. Each village consists of about 20 to 40 huts under the control of a sub-chief called "Bukuku." Their chief industries are farming, hunting, and fishing.

### MADE OF WOMAN'S SKIN

It was a tradition of the horror-stricken Scriptures of "Old Gaul" that the Abbe Rivas, attracted by the extreme tenacity and smoothness of the leaves of a Bible of the thirteenth century, became convinced that the satyr skin of a beautiful woman had furnished the parchment maker with raw material for his unrivaled product. In another instance, one Gayer de Sangle, a famous bibliophile of the college of the Sorbonne, at Paris, declared that some one had dressed and finished human skin to make the parchment used for certain Decretals.

### WIND TO PREVENT FROST

To the long list of the means heretofore proposed of protecting fields, orchards and vineyards against frost a new one has recently been added by a French scientist. He points out the fact that frosts are not feared when the wind blows; he is thus led to suggest the creation of artificial wind by the installation of electric fans among the plants to be protected. He considers this plan applicable chiefly to vineyards, but also possibly useful in orchards.

### SWALLOWED FALSE TEETH

During the progress of a football match recently at Neath, England, an extraordinary fatality occurred. At a particularly exciting portion of the game, Isaac Masou, 70, who was shouting vociferously, suddenly began to struggle for breath. He dropped to the ground, and before medical aid could reach him he was dead. He had swallowed his false teeth, which had suffocated him.

## Shrine of St. Guirec



On a little rock, surrounded by water, at Ploumanach, stands the ancient shrine of St. Guirec. In olden times if a young woman desired to get married, she made her way to the shrine and pricked the saint's nose with a needle. Even now the custom is observed by whimsical girls who visit the place.

## CHINESE SEAWEED AS FOOD.

Freer commercial contact with China may quite possibly introduce into our table menus varieties of spicy concoctions from seaweed. About 130 nutritive kinds of seaweed are in daily consumption in the far east and the cultivation of seaweed crops is regularly maintained. More than \$600,000 worth of one preparation alone is consumed every year in China in the form of dried gums which can be liquefied into delicate jellies. In Europe seaweed has not been at all considerably used for food, though blanchmanges, salads, green vegetables and a sort of tapioca fluid have been forms in which Scotch, Irish and Mediterranean peasants have partaken of the substances of seaweed. In certain parts of Japan seaweed is subjected to careful cultivation, competing species being suppressed and rocks previously planted with the weed, being sunk in suitable bays.

### MAKING A NEW WORLD.

The planet Jupiter, whose volume is 1,279 times that of the earth, and superior in dimensions and weight to all the other planets put together, is just now attracting the attention of astronomers. M. Giacobini of the Paris observatory, who has made a special study of Jupiter, has described a red spot which possesses a relative fixity, but within the last year its mobility has increased to great proportions, and its longitude by about 30 degrees. That is all that we can say scientifically. Is it really the formation of a new continent? Can we draw this deduction from this phenomenon so difficult to seize? It is possible, but who can say so with certainty? M. Camille Flammarion, however, expresses himself with far greater confidence in this matter: "We are assisting at the creation of a world. Under our dazzled eyes a new world is being created in the infinity and in Jupiter we hail the world of the future."

## AFRICANS WHO EAT CLAY

Natives of West Africa, in French Sudan, practice "geophagy." Although the practice is common in many parts of the world, this particular case is remarkable for the systematic way in which the dirt is collected, and for the fact that it occurs in a well cultivated region, where food is abundant. The earth consumed is a clay, which is found intercalated among the grits of the region in beds of various thickness. The deeper layers are preferred and for this reason the natives dig galleries, which are so crudely constructed that falls of earth frequently occur, sometimes with fatal results. When an unlucky miner is thus buried no attempt is made to rescue him, as it is believed that the divinities of the mines require an annual victim. It is stated that individuals not infrequently consume seven and a half pounds of clay daily.

## ANCIENT MANCHURIAN TOWER



One of the interesting objects recently revealed to occidental eyes in Manchuria is this ancient tower, which stands near the city of Chang-Ching. The upper and lower parts are decayed by time and weather, but elaborate carvings to be seen on the mid-portion.

### THREE PARTS TO COMET.

A comet has three parts. The nucleus is the bright, starlike point which is the kernel, the true potential comet. Around this is spread the coma, a sort of luminous fog, shading from the nucleus and forming with it the head. Still beyond is the delicate tail, stretching away into space. And this to the world in general is the comet itself, though always the least dense of the whole. Sometimes entirely wanting, or hardly detectible, the tail is again an extension millions of miles in length. Although usually a single brush of light, comets have been seen with no fewer than six tails.

### INK FROM SQUIDS

Ancient ink was made by a squeezing out of dead squids after the body was perfectly relaxed. Painters got their sepia from this same squid's bottle. This likewise is the true source of the genuine and original India ink, for which there has never been any satisfactory substitute found. The ink bag is big as a man's thumb and can squirt six feet, darkening more than a boghead of water, so the squid can make unseen a dart and dash and get away when squid-eating sea fish come around.

## SLOW MAIL FOILED CUPID

Because of the snail-like manner in which Uncle Sam sometimes delivers mail, Mrs. James Wormser, of Morgantown, W. Va., is not the wife of Cecil G. Morris, both having married since that day six years ago when the present Mrs. Wormser wrote a letter from her home, which was at that time at Webster Springs, and accepted the proposal of Morris, who lived at Riverville. The letter was six years on its journey, and when it finally reached Morris it was too late. The letter was mailed in 1906. It reached Riverville, Morris' former home, two days after it was mailed, as the postmark shows. Where the letter has been all these years cannot be ascertained. In a previous letter Morris had proposed to the woman and the missing letter contained her acceptance. Supposing the failure of the woman to answer was a rejection of his proposal, Morris married another. The woman, believing that he had changed his mind after receiving her acceptance, also married.

## CORPSE'S HEAD PAYS DOCTOR

Representatives of Dr. Blair of Apache, Okla., traveled through the mountains of east Kentucky recently to Whitesburg, where they claimed the head from the corpse of Smith Fouch, promised 25 years previous as payment for Dr. Blair's services in saving Fouch's life. Fouch was shot in the eye. Dr. Blair performed a hazardous operation, and discovered, he said, that Fouch was able to perform normal functions with a bullet in his brain. Fouch said he could not pay the doctor but offered to will the physician his head. The doctor accepted, and when Fouch died, he left a note asking that Dr. Blair be reminded of the bequest.

## LATEST OF ALPINE SPORTS



The latest Alpine winter sport may be called "bicycle tobogganing," and though it has only been introduced a short time it is likely to become very popular. The "bicycle-toboggan" comes from and has so far been seen only in Grindelwald, where its inventor, a local peasant, lives turning out his invention as fast as he is able. The accompanying picture shows that the new machine is much like an ordinary bicycle except for its having neither wheels nor pedals. There are handles by which to steer and foot-rests for the feet, which must be put on the ground whenever braking is necessary. Although at first it is difficult to steer straight, bicycle-tobogganing is very easy to learn.

### MARVEL OF ALASKA

Alaska is a far distant country, a very rainy country, depressed by the long sub-Arctic nights; but there is somehow a fascination about it which draws back the man or woman who has once experienced it. And the life in Alaska is anything but frigid. Though so far from the cities, though for a hundred miles at a time you see not a house along the shore, the few towns are very unlike the raw frontier of the plains. Sitka is a gem, with its handsome Greek church, its old Russian headquarters, its picturesque shores, its Indian basket sellers. In Juneau is as agreeable social life as you will find anywhere, with most excellent state dinners. That is the marvel of Alaska—the contrast between the vast loneliness and the truly modern life of the scattered settlements. The first white child born in Alaska is hardly a woman yet, but it is already a community with a strong sense of its own future.—From "Practical Alaska," by Albert Bushnell Hart.

## CAT CAUSES SUICIDE SCARE

"Please send a policeman here as quickly as possible!" the superintendent of the Riverview apartments, Pittsburgh, said over the phone to Lieutenant Hayes in the police station the other night. "I believe some one has been killed with gas." Policeman Ginger arrived at the apartment house out of breath. He was told that the house was filled with gas and was coming from the apartments of Harold Roberts, a civil engineer on the third floor. When the policeman could not get in through the hall doors he climbed up a rear fire escape. In the kitchen he found gas escaping from the stove and under the stove was an unconscious cat. No member of the Roberts family was at home. The cat had turned on the gas while romping about the stove.

## Greater Farm Efficiency

### How to Select Best Seed Corn

By PROF. R. A. MOORE, Wisconsin College of Agriculture



Good and Bad Types of Kernels. The Four Kernels at the Left Are of the Proper Types to Choose. Each of the Others is Faulty and an Ear Containing Such Kernels Should Not Be Chosen for Seed.

The first point in judging seed corn is to determine its truthness to the type or breed characteristics. There are seeds of corn, like breeds of cattle, which have peculiar colors or forms which distinguish them; as for instance, the Silver King is a white variety and the Golden Glow a yellow variety. It is difficult to distinguish between breeds of the same color, but this may be learned by experience. A pure corn of any breed there are certain marks which can be easily recognized.

The ideal ear is cylindrical, conforming to the standard for the variety and not crooked or too tapering.

It is as difficult to find an ear of corn perfect in shape as it is to find cows, horses and sheep with perfect forms. The shape of ears of the different varieties of corn differ as widely as the shape and form of the different pure breeds of cattle. Each class and variety has a characteristic shape peculiar to itself. For example, Silver King corn has an ear of medium length, large in circumference, while the Golden Glow has an ear considerably shorter and finer in cob and general conformation.

The most desirably shaped ear is cylindrical from butt to tip. Where ears are inclined to taper, it will be noticed that two or four rows, as a rule, are dropped near the middle of the ear. In scoring corn, take into consideration the soil and climatic conditions in which the corn is grown. The shape of a desirable ear for central Illinois would differ in many respects from the shape most desirable for Wisconsin. The shorter growing season in Wisconsin demands a shallower kernel and a smaller ear to enable the corn to mature in a short season.

The color of the grain should be uniform and true to the color standard for the variety, free from missing or discolored kernels.

The color of the cob should be a bright cherry red for yellow corn and pure white for white corn.

The color of the corn varies with the breed. The Silver King corn has a cream color, while the Boone County White has a pearly white color. Where these shades predominate they become characteristic of the breeds. Yellow breeds vary slightly in color from a pale yellow to a deep orange, and can only be known by a thorough acquaintance.

A bright cherry red cob denotes health and vigor in corn and a pale or dark red cob denotes lack of constitution or vitality. The white corn cobs should be a glistening white and not a dead pale color.

Some farmers prefer to grow corn of certain colors. From tests made by breeders of corn, and by experiment stations, it has been found that in general, color makes no difference so far as feeding value is concerned, and it is merely a matter of choice of the grower as to the color of corn he desires.

Market condition means general excellence and the degree of ripeness or maturity. Corn that shows a tendency to be loose on the cob with wide spaces between the kernels should be scored off severely under market condition.

When corn is scored from the feeder's standpoint it is not cut so severely as from the grower's or seedman's standpoint. When we consider that a bushel of corn plants about six acres and realize the importance to be attached to uniformity of stand we see the value of considering the market condition from the grower's standpoint in a critical way.

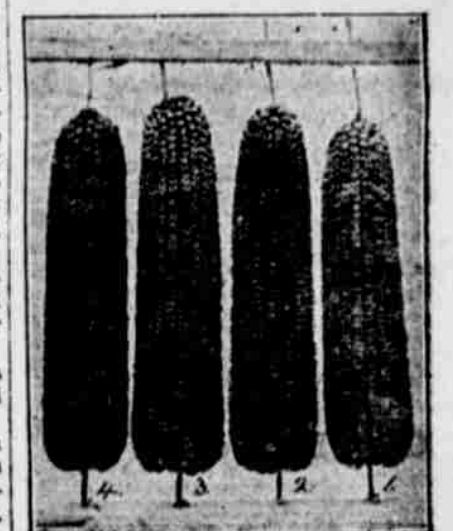
Corn will gradually become accustomed to its surroundings and will adjust itself to varying conditions of soil and climate. By selecting those ears for seed that show good market condition, even if there be but a few in the entire field, the earliness of the corn can be improved materially.

The kernels should extend over the tip of the ear in regular rows, and be uniform in size and shape. They should extend over the butt of the ear in regular rows and be well developed and uniform.

A perfect tip has a central kernel called the cap, which is completely surrounded by uniform kernels. A perfect tip is rarely found, but those which come nearest to the ideal should be chosen, provided it is not at the expense of other more important factors.

The tip kernels are likely to be flinty and of a pop corn shape, which is undesirable in dent corn. If bare tips are noticeable to quite an extent throughout the field, it may be due to the fact that the silks representing the tip kernels which were formed last were too late to receive the pollen to fertilize them. If ears having defective tips are used for seed, their undesirable characters will soon become permanent. Open tips usually accompany shallow and irregular kernels on the ear which makes the kernels on that part of the ear undesirable for planting, on account of lack of uniformity.

In judging the character of the butt of an ear of corn, the way in which the rows come over towards the shank is important. If the corn comes in too close, the ears may drop off the stalk during the ripening and not fully mature. All ears which have butts improperly filled should be rejected. Corn breeders in desiring to get a large proportion of corn to the cob, often choose ears with too small an attachment for the shank. The butt and the tip kernels are rejected for planting, because they are more likely to be mixed with other varieties and owing to their peculiar formation, they are not uniform, and interfere in the planting. They also seem weaker in germination and are more tardy in



Types of Good Ears. In Choosing Seed Corn, Select Ears as Near the Shape of Those Shown Here as Possible.

growth than kernels from the middle parts of the ear.

Kernels should be of perfect wedge shape, narrower or wider at the point, according to the variety characteristics.

They should be uniform in shape, size and color and true to the type or variety. The crown or big end of the kernel should be such that the edges of the kernels slope from tip to crown. The tip of the kernel, which is the part attached to the cob and contains the germ is rich in protein and oil and of the highest feeding value. For this reason a plump tip usually indicates vitality.

The kernels on the cob may be irregular, being deeper at the butt than at the tip. This makes the kernels non-uniform in size and renders the corn almost wholly unfit for seed. No machine will plant kernels of this type so as to get a uniform stand.

Kernels with weak or shriveled tips should be discarded, no matter how well the outside of the ear may look. At least 85 per cent. of the oil in the kernel is in the germ, hence corn with well formed germs is desirable. Tests by the Illinois experiment station show that the oil in corn may vary from 2 1/4 to 7 1/2 per cent. and protein from 6 1/2 to 16 per cent. If seed corn contains a large amount of protein and oil the crop grown from this seed will be high in these desirable features.

Standard measurements for corn produced in northern, middle and southern Wisconsin, are as follows: Length, northern section 8 to 9 inches, central, 8 1/4 to 9 1/4 inches, southern 8 1/2 to 9 1/2 inches. Long ears are objectionable because they usually have poor butts and tips, shallow kernels and hence a low per cent. of grain to the ear. In general the circumference should be three-fourths the length. The standards for various sections in Wisconsin are: Northern 6 to 6 1/2 inches, central 6 1/2 to 7 inches, southern 7 to 7 1/2 inches.